MARVEL 78 .com

EXILES

WORLD SQUADRON SUPREME TOUR

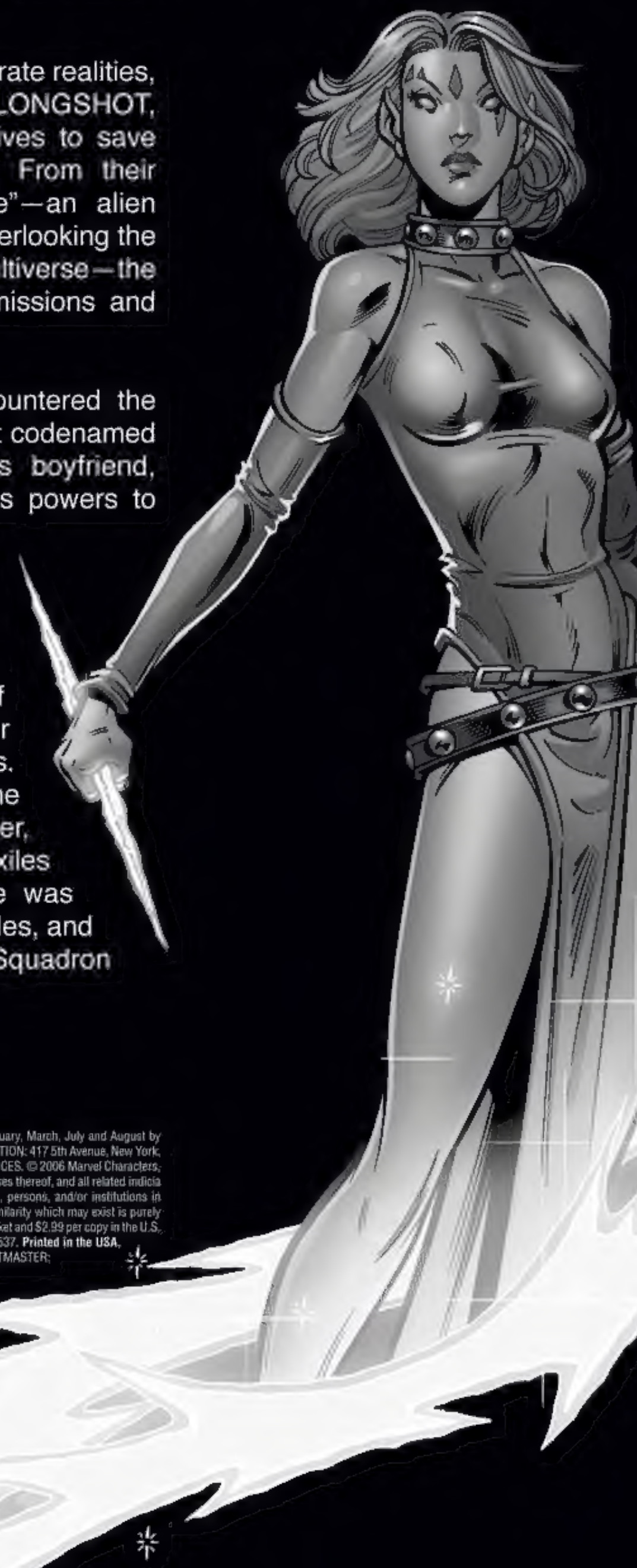
J. Calafiore & McKenna

Previously in EXILES:

Gathered together from their own separate realities, BLINK, SABRETOOTH, MORPH, LONGSHOT, and HEATHER HUDSON risk their lives to save one imperiled Earth after another. From their headquarters in the "Crystal Palace"—an alien observatory outside space and time overlooking the countless realities that make up the Multiverse—the Exiles undertake their world-saving missions and often pay a terrible price.

Such was the case when they encountered the body-snatching, reality-warping mutant codenamed PROTEUS. After murdering Blink's boyfriend, Proteus used his own nearly limitless powers to jump to other universes in search of new victims. The Exiles have pursued him ever since.

In the futuristic world of 2099, Proteus took over the invulnerable body of HULK 2099 and used its massive power to fend off an attack by the Exiles. Proteus then fled to the world of the SQUADRON SUPREME, whose leader, HYPERION, had encountered the Exiles before. Proteus convinced them he was being wrongfully persecuted by the Exiles, and when they arrived in hot pursuit, the Squadron defeated and captured them...



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EARTH #712

YOU STAND ACCUSED OF CRIMES AGAINST *NATURE, HISTORY,* AND THE *HUMAN RACE* ITSELF!

THE PENALTY YOU FACE IS *LIFE IMPRISONMENT.*

HOW DO YOU *PLEAD?*

KLANK KLANK

WORLD SQUADRON SUPREME TOUR

CONCLUSION

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OH, YOU'VE GOTTA BE *KIDDING!* WE'RE WASTING TIME HERE WHILE THE *REAL* CRIMINAL RUNS FREE!

WHATEVER THAT "HULK" TOLD YOU ABOUT US, HE *LIED.*

IN FACT, HE'S NO HULK AT ALL-- HE'S A BODY-SNATCHING KILLER NAMED *PROTEUS--*

HE CLAIMED *YOU* PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM, AND CONSIDERING OUR LAST RUN-IN, I'M INCLINED TO *BELIEVE* HIM!

KLANK KLANK

ORDER!

WE'RE HERE TO DETERMINE THE *TRUTH,* AND WE NEED TO DO SO *QUICKLY,* BEFORE THE GLOBAL DIRECTORATE ATTACKS AGAIN.

NOW, EXILES, ENTER YOUR *PLEA.*

NO. I WON'T PLAY ALONG WITH THIS FARCE!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO SLAP THESE INHIBITOR COLLARS ON US, MUCH LESS PASS JUDGMENT ON US!

SHOW SOME RESPECT, GIRL!

YOU STAND IN THE HIGH JUDICIAL TEMPLE OF MY PEOPLE! THERE IS NO BETTER PLACE TO DECIDE YOUR GUILT.

NO ONE'S BEEN FOUND GUILTY YET, ZARDA.

BUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU EXILES LIKE IT, WE WILL REACH A VERDICT.

AND IN CASE YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS OUT THERE THINKING OF CRASHING THIS PARTY...

...I'VE GOT THE WHOLE TEMPLE ON LOCKDOWN. ONLY THE TRUTH CAN SET YOU FREE.

WHY EVEN **BOTHER** WITH THE KANGAROO COURT? YOU'VE ALREADY MADE UP YOUR MINDS.

ON THE CONTRARY, SIR, THE **SQUADRON SUPREME** WILL GIVE YOU A **FAIR** HEARING.

OUR **LEAGUE** EXISTS TO SERVE **JUSTICE.**

YOUSAIDA MOUTHFULTHERE, SKYMAX.

ON WITH THE TESTIMONY. I CALL **HYPERION** TO THE STAND!

I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE EXILES FIVE WEEKS AGO, WHEN A BOY NAMED **BARNELL BOHUSK** APPEARED OUT OF THIN AIR AND ASKED ME TO SAVE THEM.

WAIT A MINUTE! AREN'T YOU EVEN GONNA **SWEAR** HIM IN?

ONE--HE'S **HYPERION.** HE DOESN'T LIE. **PERIOD.**

TWO--IF **YOU** LIE ON THE STAND, MY **POWER PRISM** WILL KNOW IT.

I LEARNED THAT "BEAK" HAD *TELEPORTED* HERE FROM THE HEADQUARTERS OF A DIMENSION-HOPPING TEAM HE'D BEEN *FORCED* TO JOIN.

HE SAID THEIR *MISSIONS* CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY IN EACH UNIVERSE THEY VISIT.

"BUT THEY LOST CONTROL OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS TO AN ALTERNATE VERSION OF *ME*-- A TWISTED, *MURDEROUS* HYPERION.

"IT TOOK ME AND *ANOTHER* GOOD HYPERION TO STOP THE BAD ONE."

LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE EXILES *RECKLESSLY ENDANGERED* THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE BY GIVING ACCESS TO EVERY REALITY TO A SUPER-TYRANT.

NOTED.

HEATHER...NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TA BEAM US UP.

I'M TRYING, BUT THE BUILDING'S SHIELDED PRETTY EFFECTIVELY.

I CAN SEE YOU, BUT I CAN'T GET A TELEPORTER LOCK ON YOU.

SO YOU WERE IN THE EXILES' HEADQUARTERS. YOU SAW FIRSTHAND THE THREAT THESE PEOPLE POSED. YOU COULD'VE SHUT THEM DOWN YOURSELF.

INSTEAD, YOUR MISSION REPORT SAYS YOU TRUSTED THAT BOHUSK BOY-- A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT-- TO REMAIN AS THE EXILES' "MORAL COMPASS"...?

I KNOW HOW IT LOOKS, BUT I SENSED A RARE STRENGTH OF CHARACTER IN HIM.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY FORCED HIM OUT.

BEAK WASN'T FORCED TO DO ANYTHING!

WITNESSES WILL REMAIN SILENT UNTIL CALLED TO TESTIFY! HYPERION, YOU MAY STEP DOWN.

THIS IS RIDICULOUS.

I NEED TO PUNCH THROUGH THAT SHIELD.

BARRIER SOURCE IS A POWER PRISM ARTIFACT--NO KNOWN COUNTER-MEASURE.

THEN I NEED MORE BACKGROUND ON THIS SO-CALLED SQUADRON. THERE MUST BE SOME CHINK IN THEIR ARMOR...

SO YOU CLAIM THERE WAS NO COERCION AMONGST THE EXILES?

NOBODY WAS FORCED TO DO NOTHING.

HE'S LYING.

DO SO AGAIN AND I'LL FIND YOU GUILTY ON THE SPOT.

WELL...I GUESS WE ***WERE*** PUSHED INTO THIS WHOLE THING BACK AT THE ***START.***

A LITTLE GUY CALLED THE ***TIMEBROKER*** YANKED US FROM OUR OWN WORLDS AND TOLD US WE COULDN'T GO HOME UNLESS WE ***FIXED*** A BUNCH OF BROKEN REALITIES.

TELL ME, MISTER MORPH...DID THE INHABITANTS OF THESE BROKEN EARTHS ***ASK*** FOR YOUR INTERVENTION?

AH, NOT EXACTLY. MOST OF 'EM DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE THREATS AGAINST THEM.

I SEE. AND WAS THE FIRST GROUP OF EXILES GATHERED BY THIS "TIMEBROKER" PERSON THE ***SAME*** GROUP THAT'S IN THIS COURT TODAY?

NO. THE LINEUP'S ***CHANGED*** SINCE THEN. A LOT.

AND DID THE PEOPLE CHOSEN BY THE TIMEBROKER ALWAYS HAVE A ***POSITIVE*** IMPACT ON THE WORLDS YOU VISITED?

I'D LIKE TO THINK SO...

...THAT IS, I...

PROBABLY *NOT*...

TAKE THAT IDIOT OFF THE STAND! HE'S GETTIN' IT ALL *WRONG!*

WHAT WE DO AIN'T *EASY*, IT AIN'T *FUN*, AND IT SURE AIN'T *PRETTY*, BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO--

QUIET! YOU'LL GET YOUR TURN--

SHOVE YOUR RULES! I WON'T *APOLOGIZE* FOR SAVIN' WORLDS!

BAILIFF, *MUZZLE* THE DEFENDANT.

RIGHT.

=MMPH!=

TAKE THAT THING *OFF* HIM!

Y'KNOW, HE WOULDN'T *HAVE* TO SPEAK OUT IF WE HAD A *LAWYER.*

I MEAN, WHAT KIND OF TRIAL IS IT IF WE DON'T HAVE AN ADVOCATE?

ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE DIRT I JUST DUG UP ON THAT SQUADRON.

IF ONLY I COULD GET DOWN THERE...

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES, HEATHER HUDSON.

SUCH AS?

RECRUIT NEW EXILES.

I JUST NEED TO TALK TO THE SQUADRON, NOT LAUNCH ANOTHER ATTACK.

THEN USE THE INTERFACE WE ONCE USED WITH YOU.

THE TALLUS? ONLY SABRETOOTH CAN HEAR IT, AND HE CAN'T EXACTLY PASS ALONG WHAT I SAY RIGHT NOW.

NOT THE TALLUS. THE OTHER INTERFACE.

OF COURSE--!

SMAK

RRRRRR

TAKE IT OFF HIM AND HE'LL CALM DOWN!

WHIZZER...

WAYAHEADOFYA.

I HAVE SEEN *ENOUGH.*

IF *THIS* IS HOW YOU THUGS SOLVE PROBLEMS, I HAVE NO TROUBLE FINDING YOU G—

I M READING AN *ENERGY SURGE!*

-NFF-

SLAM

...I'LL SHOW YOU!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

THEY'RE NOT HURT.

THAT'S A COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE ON SABRE-TOOTH'S WRIST.

RIGHT NOW, THEY CAN SEE THE THINGS ABOUT YOUR PAST THAT YOU KEPT FROM THEM...

TIMEBROKER...?!

LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE EXILES. SORRY I'M LATE, YOUR HONOR.

NO WAY! NOBODY COULD GET THROUGH THAT DOME I PUT UP!

IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, DOCTOR SPECTRUM, I'M NOT REALLY HERE

BLINK, IT'S HEATHER. I COULDN'T COME IN PERSON, SO THIS IS THE NEXT BEST THING.

AND YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT THESE SO-CALLED HEROES--

I OBJECT TO THIS INTRUSION!

AND I OBJECT TO YOUR HYPOCRISY!

TELL US WHAT YOU FOUND OUT ABOUT THEM, HEATHER

I'LL DO BETTER THAN THAT, BLINK...

HOW DARE YOU ACCUSE US OF MEDDLING WHEN YOU'RE GUILTY OF SO MUCH WORSE?

HOW THE WORLD YOU WERE SWORN TO PROTECT WAS DEVASTATED BY THE POWER OF THE **SERPENT CROWN.**

"SOCIETY COLLAPSED, SO YOU IMPOSED ORDER--AND A **PLAN** TO BUILD A **GLOBAL UTOPIA.**

"YOU USED A **BEHAVIOR-MODIFICATION** DEVICE TO TURN BAD GUYS INTO GOOD GUYS. SWAPPING **FREEDOM FOR SECURITY** MUST'VE SEEMED LIKE A FAIR TRADE AT THE TIME.

"YOU WERE SELLING OUT YOUR **IDEALS,** BUT, HEY-- YOU **MEANT** WELL.

"THE **ORIGINAL** NIGHTHAWK DIDN'T SELL OUT, THOUGH.

"HE **DIED** TRYING TO STOP YOU, FORCING YOU TO FINALLY FACE WHAT YOU'D BECOME.

"THEN YOU GUYS **LEAVE** THIS MESS OF A WORLD AND WHEN YOU RETURN YOU FIND IT UNDER **MARTIAL LAW.**"

"TURNS OUT A NEW GOVERNMENT CALLED THE *GLOBAL DIRECTORATE* IS IN CHARGE, AND THEY DON'T WANT YOU BACK.

"SO NOW YOU'RE *HUNTED* BY A REGIME THAT USES YOUR OWN BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNOLOGY TO BRAINWASH THEIR *BLUE EAGLE* SOLDIERS..."

WANTED

DR. SPECTRUM

NIGHTHAWK

EMPEROR

...AND IF YOU TRY TO DEPOSE THEM, YOU'LL ONLY *PROVE* THEIR CLAIM THAT YOU'RE A BUNCH OF POWER-GRABBING *SUPER-JERKS.*

BUT...THEY *WERE* DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED. THE PEOPLE *CHOSE* THE GLOBAL DIRECTORATE.

WE *CAN'T* JUST OVERTHROW THEM BY FORCE. WE MUST *EXPOSE* THEIR MALFEASANCE AND REGAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT.

OKAY, HEATHER. WE'VE SEEN WHO *THEY* ARE...

...NOW SHOW THEM WHO *WE* ARE.

"DON'T FIGHT IT. THIS ISN'T MIND-CONTROL, JUST IMAGES FROM OUR PAST MISSIONS.

"DECIDE FOR YOURSELVES WHAT YOU THINK, BUT KNOW THAT WE HAVE SACRIFICED *EVERYTHING* TO SAVE ONE REALITY AFTER ANOTHER.

"WE DIDN'T ASK FOR THE JOB, AND WE HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN VERY GENTLE ABOUT IT, BUT YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE *RESULTS*.

"SO FAR, WE'VE SAVED MORE THAN *FIFTY* FLAWED UNIVERSES FROM TOTAL COLLAPSE..."

...I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY *BILLION* LIVES THAT EQUALS, BUT I'LL BE DAMNED IF YOU'RE GONNA LOOK DOWN ON OUR WORK AND TELL US IT CAME TO *NOTHING!*

THAT...CAN'T *BE*...THEY MUST'VE *FAKED* IT...SOMEHOW...

NO, JOE, THAT WAS *REAL*. I FELT IT IN MY *BONES*.

ME, TOO.

MARK, ARE YOU OKAY?

NO, ZARDA, I'M *NOT*. THESE PEOPLE SAVE WORLD AFTER WORLD, AND WE CAN'T EVEN RESCUE OUR *OWN--!*

HYPERION, I DIDN'T SHOW YOU THIS TO *BELITTLE* YOU.

I HAVE AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE--OUR MASTER COMPUTER TELLS ME THINGS ABOUT YOUR WORLD EVEN *YOU* COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW ..

...LIKE HOW THE GLOBAL DIRECTORATE ENGINEERED WORLDWIDE *VOTER FRAUD* AND STOLE YOUR LAST ELECTION...

GLOBAL DIRECTORATE WORLD HEADQUARTERS

THAT UGLY GREEN APE COST US *EVERYTHING!*

HE ONLY DELAYED THE INEVITABLE...

WE HAD THE SQUADRON SUPREME *ON THE ROPES* UNTIL HE CAME ALONG!

WHY IS THERE NO RECORD OF THIS GREEN GUY IN THE *PARA-HUMAN REGISTRY?*

BLUE EAGLE INTEL THINKS HE MIGHT BE FROM THAT *PARALLEL UNIVERSE* THE SQUADRON DISCOVERED

BLOOONK

!

SECURITY BREACH!

THE END IS NIG

BETTER SWITCH THOSE MONITORS TO THE *NEWS.*

RIGHT ABOUT NOW, EVERY MAJOR NETWORK IS BROADCASTING THE DATA WE SENT THEM ABOUT HOW YOU *RIGGED* THE ELECTION.

WHAT?

ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE CONDEMNED US FOR SEIZING POWER THAT WASN'T OURS TO TAKE, WHEN IN FACT YOU'D DONE THE *SAME THING!*

YOU CAN'T *PROVE* THAT!

WE ALREADY *HAVE.* OUR *SOURCE* HAS ACCESS TO ALL OF YOUR SECRETS.

THE PEOPLE WILL GET A *REAL* ELECTION THIS TIME AROUND.

LET'S *GO,* GUYS...

NOT SO FAST.

SOMEONE FROM OUR RANKS NEEDS TO ACCOMPANY YOU...

...THE THREAT OF PROTEUS IS FAR TOO GREAT TO *FACE ALONE.*

I AM GOING WITH YOU.

...NO...

I HAVE TO, ZARDA.

THEY NEED SOME-ONE LOOKING OVER THEIR SHOULDER.

I CAN ENSURE THEY DEFEAT PROTEUS THE RIGHT WAY.

BUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD. THEY'RE GOING TO NEED HYPERION NOW MORE THAN EVER.

BUT PERHAPS... THEY CAN DO WITHOUT ME FOR A WHILE.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK US IF WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW MEMBER.

THE ANSWER, BY THE WAY, IS "NO."

YOUNG LADY, I DO NOT *AGE*. I HAVE FIVE CENTURIES OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE AND I'M STRONGER THAN ALL OF YOU PUT TOGETHER.

THE SOONER I HELP YOU CATCH PROTEUS, THE SOONER YOU GET BACK TO SAVING ALL THOSE WORLDS IN PERIL.

AND THE SOONER I CAN *PUNISH* THAT LYING CREATURE FOR SETTING US AGAINST EACH OTHER.

=HHH= DON'T MAKE ME REGRET THIS...

FAASSHH

ALL RIGHT, SQUADRON, LET'S MAKE SURE POWER PRINCESS HAS A WORLD *WORTH* COMING HOME TO...

NEXT

FUTURE IMPERFECT